



## The effect of inclement weather on trauma orthopaedic workload

**Author(s):** Cashman JP, Green CJ, McEllistrem B, Masterson E, Condon F  
**Year:** 2011  
**Journal:** Irish Journal of Medical Science. 180 (3): 679-682

### Abstract:

**BACKGROUND:** Climate change models predict increasing frequency of extreme weather. One of the challenges hospitals face is how to make sure they have adequate staffing at various times of the year. **AIMS:** The aim of this study was to examine the effect of this severe inclement weather on hospital admissions, operative workload and cost in the Irish setting. We hypothesised that there is a direct relationship between cold weather and workload in a regional orthopaedic trauma unit. **METHODS:** Trauma orthopaedic workload in a regional trauma unit was examined over 2 months between December 2009 and January 2010. This corresponded with a period of severe inclement weather. **RESULTS:** We identified a direct correlation between the drop in temperature and increase in workload, with a corresponding increase in demand on resources. **CONCLUSIONS:** Significant cost savings could be made if these injuries were prevented. While the information contained in this study is important in the context of resource planning and staffing of hospital trauma units, it also highlights the vulnerability of the Irish population to wintery weather.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11845-011-0699-z>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Cold

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

**European Region/Country:** European Country

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

**Other European Country :** Ireland

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Other Health Impact

**Other Health Impact:** Emergency room visits

**Model/Methodology:** ☒

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified